The Meteorological Office

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"PLOTTING WHAT GEORGES WILL DO NEXT." - THE UK MET. OFFICE FORECASTS THE PATH OF HURRICANE GEORGES

As Hurricane Georges continues to wreak havoc along the American coastline, forecasters from The Met. Office in Bracknell are providing the National Hurricane Centre in Miami with up-to-the-minute information predicting the progress of the tropical storm.

Advanced technology gives The Met. Office the ability to create global forecasts of tropical storm activity, which the National Hurricane Centre then uses in its warnings of severe conditions. Julian Heming, Tropical Cyclone expert at The Met. Office said: "The Met. Office's state-of-the-art forecast model provides detailed weather information globally. We are currently working closely with the National Hurricane Centre in Miami to monitor the progress of Hurricane Georges and forecast its path, therefore minimising the risk to the public."

Hurricanes Georges has claimed over three hundred lives in its progress through the Caribbean and Florida, causing damage costing millions of dollars. Between 1986 and 1995, hurricanes cost insurance companies $8 billion a year across the globe. The Met. Office is working with a consortium of insurers called TSUNAMI to improve the insurance sector's understanding of tropical storms. Research undertaken for TSUNAMI by The Met. Office will produce a statistical cyclone prediction system to forecast potentially disastrous weather events up to 11 months in advance, giving insurance companies sufficient time to react and make strategic decisions.

The Met. Office is the world's leading provider of weather forecasting and consultancy services and provides a valuable contribution to risk analysis for insurance companies operating on land or at sea. Accurate Met. Office weather information and analysis can help insurance companies reduce pay-outs on fraudulent damage claims and improve customer servicing (both in the UK and internationally.)

Information about hurricanes can be found on The MetCALL Hurricane Information Service on 0336 500 450 (calls charged at 50p per minute).

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The Met. Office Press Office